

Stand-up Paddle Board Update
April 10, 2013

The Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department is currently working with the City's Water Resources Department and the State of North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Public Water Supply section to pursue the allowance of stand-up paddle boards on the City's three lakes: Brandt, Higgins, and Townsend.

Greensboro's lakes are Class I or II reservoirs; they serve as the primary water supply source for the City of Greensboro. Because of this, recreational uses of the lakes are controlled and regulated by DENR and the State's Commission on Public Health. In order to protect Greensboro's drinking water, strict controls and testing are in place in order to ensure that bodily contact with the water and contamination from bodily contact and other sources does not occur.

The allowance of different recreational uses of the lakes must be approved by the State prior to the Parks and Recreation Department being allowed to permit different uses of the lake. Thus, the use of stand-up paddle boards will not be allowed on a permanent basis until the State provides the go-ahead.

The Parks and Recreation Department has revised its rules and regulations in such a way as to permit paddle boards on the lakes and has submitted these rules to the State (DENR) for review, along with a request from the Parks and Recreation Director, Chris Wilson, in support of this rule change. In response, the State has advised Parks and Recreation that because paddle boarding is a newer but growing activity, it will be necessary for Greensboro to submit additional data showing paddle board's impact on water quality. In order to gather this water testing data, the State has granted Parks and Recreation three one-day exceptions to allow stand-up paddle boards on our lakes. One day of paddle board use will be allowed according to the following schedule:

- Sat. April 20: Lake Brandt (5945 Lake Brandt Rd., 373-3741), 7 am-7 pm
- Sat. April 27: Lake Higgins (4235 Hamburg Mill Rd., 373-3739), 7 am-7 pm
- Sat. May 4: Lake Townsend (6332 Lake Townsend Rd., 373-3694), 7 am- 7 pm

Private paddle boards will be allowed to be launched at the lakes on the above dates; the launch fees for canoes/kayaks (\$6.00) will apply to each launch. Paddle board users will be required to wear approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) at all times while on the paddle board and will also have to launch in such a way as no bodily contact with the water occurs.

Greensboro Parks and Recreation is pleased to be able to offer some trial dates for this growing activity and continues to work collaboratively with the State with the hope of allowing paddle boards on a permanent basis. If you have any questions, please direct them to staff at any of the lakes above, or contact:

- Brooks Mullane, Outdoor Adventure & Environmental Education Supervisor, 373-5668 or Brooks.Mullane@greensboro-nc.gov
- Phil Fleischmann, Special Programs Superintendent, 373-3275 or Phillip.Fleischmann@greensboro-nc.gov